

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05694 311004Z

14

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H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 310936Z DEC 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8109

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5694

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: MINIC ON YUGOSLAV-US RELATIONS

SECRETARY MINIC GAVE INTERVIEW TO KOMUNIST EDITOR BRANKO SKRINER ON DECEMBER 29, WHICH WIDELY EXCERPTED IN TANJUG BULLETIN AND BORBA (BUT NOT POLITIKA) DECEMBER 30. HIS REMARKS ON YUGOSLAVI'S NON-ALIGNED STAND AND RELATIONS WITH U.S. ARE OF INTEREST. REFUTING TALK IN "CERTAIN CIRCLES ABROAD" THAT YUGOSLAVIA SHOULD BE TURNED MORE TO EAST OR WEST, MINIC ASSERTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA REACTS TO CONCRETE SITUATIONS IN TERMS OF ITS OWN INTERESTS. SOVIETS ON ONE HAND ARE AIDING ARAB COUNTTIES WHILE US LENDS ASSISTANCE TO "ISRAELI AGRESSOR." YUGOSLAVIA SUPPORTS LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF ARAB PEOPLES. THEREFORE, "IT IS BY NO MEANS SURPRISING THAT THERE HAVE APPEARED CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US," BUT "THIS HAS OCCURRED BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS AND NOT BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES ON QUESTION OF BI-LATERAL COOPERATION."

MINIC CONTINUED BY SAYING "OUR BI-LATERAL COOPERATION WITH THE US, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC, ARE DEVELOPING WELL AND ARE INCREASINGLY WIDENING ON THE BASES ESTABLISHED IN THE TITO-NIXON CONVERSATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT TITO'S VISIT TO THE U.S."

JOHNSON

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NNN

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